

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraphs following, wherein the added matter is shown by underlining:

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 5 through 7:

This application is a national phase application of International Application No. PCT/US98/17388, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/971,188, filed on November 17, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,326,165, which is a continuation-in-part of application serial no. 08/843,205, filed on April 14, 1997, now abandoned.

Please amend the paragraph at page 68, line 10 through line 22:

A JHR Met nucleotide sequence was isolated from a cDNA library from *D. erecta*, *Met-JHR-erecta*. A reverse oligonucleotide primer was based on the 5' end of the PAS-A region of the *Drosophila Met-JHR* gene, TLMQLL (residues 128-133 of SEQ ID NOs:4, 5, and 11, respectively). Using this primer, standard polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques were used to amplify DNA sequences from *D. erecta*. The amplified DNA was subcloned into a plasmid and sequenced. The sequence obtained from *D. erecta* includes 232 nucleotides from the N-terminal portion of the *Met-erecta*-JHR ORF. As shown in Figure 5, there is high homology between the two genes, suggesting that the Met⁺ gene may be conserved throughout *Drosophila* and the order Diptera.